



**DATE:** 28 October 2013  
**TO:** CAA Committee on Standards  
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Chair, CAC/ ISO/TC43/SC2

### ***Report of Subcommittee on Building Acoustics, November 2013***

This report presents an update on key standardization activity in ISO/TC43/SC2 and ASTM E33, the two standards committees relevant for building acoustics in Canada. Draft changes to the National Building Code for 2015 propose the use of a mix of ASTM and ISO standards. The review and approval process for changes to the NBCC will extend over the next two years; at this stage the proposed changes have been approved by the committees for Part 5 (large buildings) and Part 9 (Housing) and were included in proposed changes circulated in October for public review and comment. Work on a further revision to include impact (footstep) sound in the subsequent edition of the NBCC should start before 2015.

#### ***1. Issues in ISO/TC43/SC2:***

Last meeting of ISO/TC43/SC2 was in Germany in June 2013, and John Bradley attended; this meeting both advanced ISO drafts and added useful new work items. Steady advance of the ISO standards beyond their ASTM counterparts invites serious consideration of eventually basing the noise control provisions in the National Building Code completely on ISO standards, but meanwhile they provide concepts for ASTM to adapt.

- Field sound transmission, ISO 16283 Parts 1-3 (updating/replacing remaining parts of ISO 140 series) are being revised to deal more reliably with low frequency sound; JDQ is acting as formal Canadian participant (with Berndt Zeitler from NRC attending some meetings).
- Ratings for sound transmission: Revision of ISO 717 is underway; the new documents will be called ISO 16717 Parts 1 and 2. A parallel technology development project to establish international consensus on the technical features of these ratings (COST TU0901) is underway and JDQ is participating (representing NRC Canada). This offers the potential for much improved ratings for both airborne and impact sound.
- Green Acoustics: A new Working Group has been established to develop acoustical performance standards suitable for use in the evaluation/rating of sustainable buildings under programs such as LEED.

More members joining Canadian Advisory Committee to ISO/TC43/SC2 would be nice, but there has been limited response to recruiting efforts. Because participation by some members had died out, a pruning of the membership was done, with considerable regret in view of the former members' extensive contributions in past years. Those interested in participating in the building acoustics CAC are urged to contact Dave Quirt.

**2. Issues in ASTM E33:**

Members of our CAC have leading roles within ASTM Committee E33, which is responsible for standards in “Building and Environmental Acoustics”. The committee meets twice each year. Brad Gover is still Chair of Subcommittee E33.03 which is responsible for all ASTM standards pertinent to sound transmission in buildings (and hence for building codes), and other members of the CAC will increase their roles as BNG shifts into an expanded management role at NRC.

Activity to maintain and revise ASTM standards is presented on the ASTM website, and for building acoustics, this is at <http://www.astm.org/COMMIT/SUBCOMMIT/E33.htm> . For each current standard, there is a brief summary of significance and use, plus the scope, and an outline of the issues for any current revision.